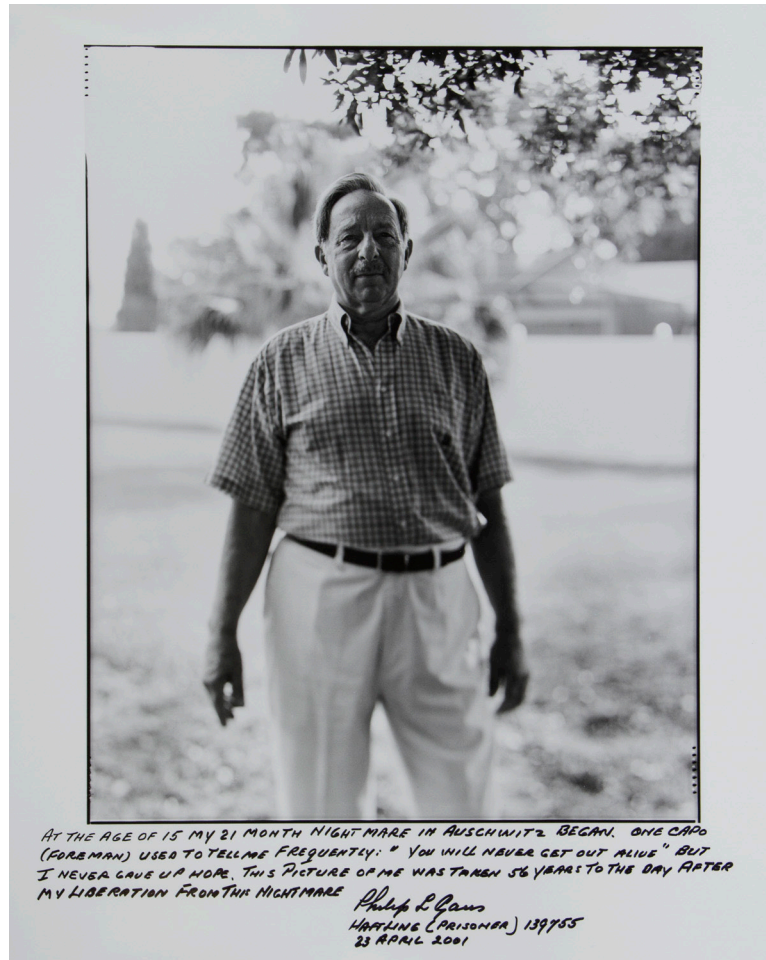


FRAGMENTS: PORTRAITS OF SURVIVORS

“Fragments: Portraits of Survivors” is a traveling exhibition of The Florida Holocaust Museum. The following images are a sample of the exhibition.



PHILIP L. GANS

Philip Gans was born in Amsterdam, Holland, the youngest of three children. His father owned a successful factory.

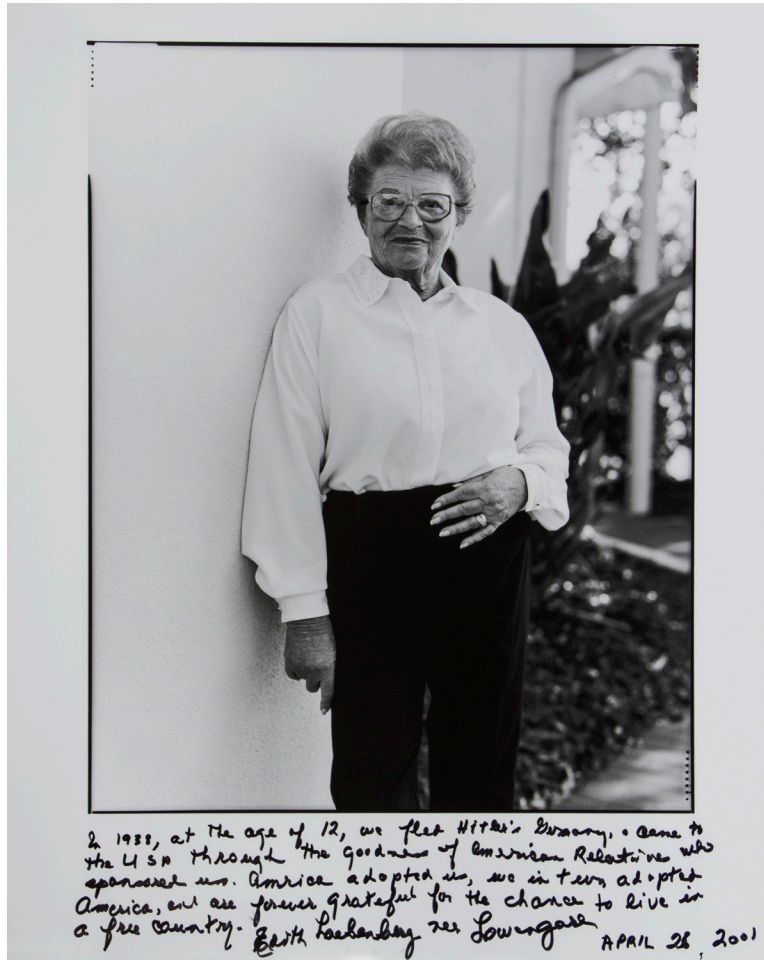
From July 1942 to July 1943, his family hid in many different cities in Holland. He was captured and sent to Westerbork Detention Camp for one month. From there his family was transported in a closed cattle car with one hundred others. Several days later they arrived in Auschwitz/Birkenau. Phil's mother and sister were immediately taken to the gas chamber.

He worked as a slave-laborer in the I.G. Farben factory. His brother became ill and was gassed.

As the Russians neared the camp in January, 1945, Phil was forced to march thirty miles until he and the other prisoners were loaded onto an open cattle car. They were transported to Flossenbürg where he was separated from his father, who died later on a death march.

He was liberated by the American Army on April 23, 1945. Since he spoke German and English fluently, he became an interpreter for the Americans for six months.

From there he returned to Amsterdam and then went with an aunt to Aruba. In 1950, he arrived in the United States and served twenty-one months in the American Army.



EDITH LOEBENBERG (née Lowengard)

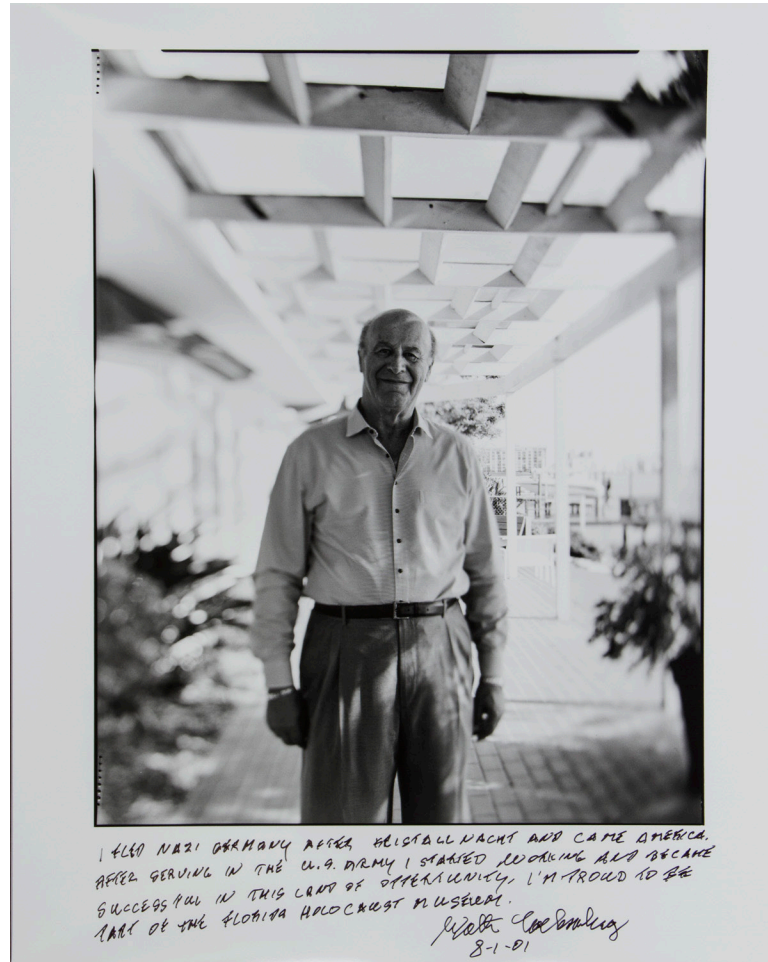
Edith Loebenberg was born in Darnstadt, Germany, and was brought up in an Orthodox home with one sister. Her father worked in the iron and steel business.

She attended public school until that was forbidden under the new law, and then was educated in the synagogue school.

Edith's mother traveled to the United States to obtain affidavits for visas. Her family was ordered to Stuttgart for physicals.

They left Germany in 1938 and arrived in New York, then moved to Chicago. There she attended public school, learning English quickly. Her father took a temporary job as a night watchman in an iron-and-steel factory. Her mother opened a successful neighborhood dining room with German-style cooking.

Edith married in 1948 and had three children and eight grandchildren. Edith passed away in 2010.



WALTER LOEBENBERG

Walter Loebenberg was born in Wachterbacht, Germany and was raised with one sister. His was a prominent family in a community with very few Jews. His father owned a paint manufacturing company.

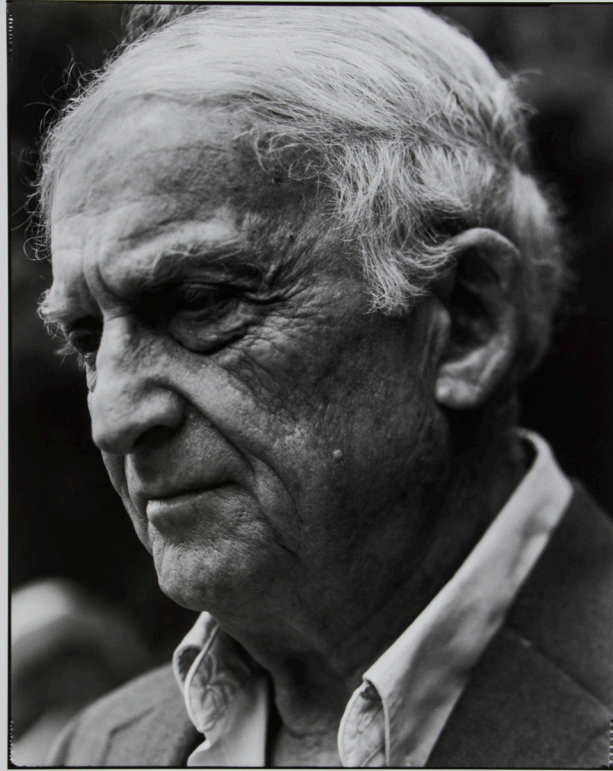
In 1933, Walter’s father was sent to prison for slandering Hitler’s name. His business deteriorated due to antisemitism, so the family moved to Frankfurt in 1936.

At age fourteen, Walter became an apprentice in a bakery. On Kristallnacht, he arrived to see the bakery ransacked, and on his way back home, he saw his synagogue burn to the ground. He was taken by the Germans to the town square where Jews were being deported in boxcars, but he escaped only to be chased by a mob of women. His mother immediately wrote for assistance to leave Germany.

The family was scheduled to travel on the St. Louis, but plans changed at the last minute. They reached Ellis Island in 1939, and remained there for four months. He was drafted into the United States Army and became a citizen.

Walter is married and has three children, eight grandchildren, and four great-grandchildren.

FRAGMENTS: PORTRAITS OF SURVIVORS



Let us strive for a better world in which a human tragedy like the Holocaust will be unthinkable.
Jerry Rawicki 04-25-01

JERRY RAWICKI

Jerry Rawicki was born in Plock, Poland where he was raised with two older sisters in a middle class home. He had religious training and completed one year of law school. His father managed an agricultural machinery factory. In 1939, Jerry's father fled to Warsaw to avoid arrest.

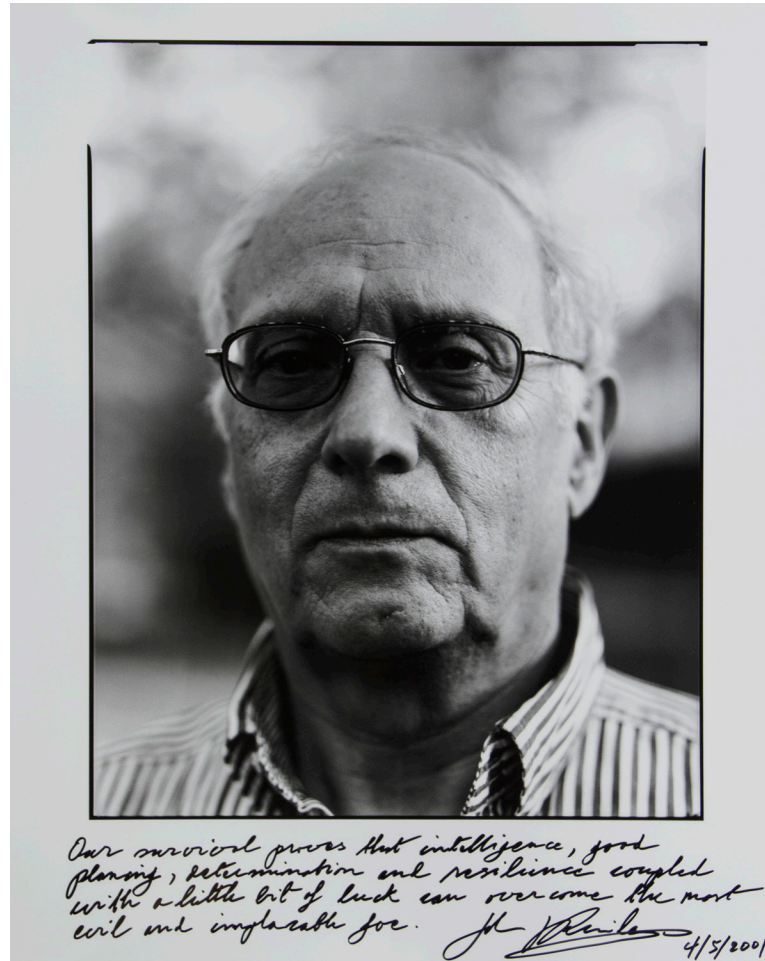
All Jews from Plock were sent to Soldau, East Prussia in 1940 and dispersed to small villages in Poland. To save his family from starvation in the Bodzentyn Ghetto, he dug graves.

Jerry escaped from that ghetto with his oldest sister to Warsaw in 1942. After a perilous journey, he joined his father in the Warsaw Ghetto. There he joined the ZOB, a Jewish Fighting Organization, as a courier. He was charged with smuggling goods and messages in and out of the ghetto.

During the uprising, he ran out of ammunition, and hid in an abandoned cellar. He was ill for weeks and caught by German satellite troops, but escaped. His father, mother, and one sister perished. Jerry left Warsaw in 1943 as a gentile and worked on a farm. He became a member of Polish partisans, Peasant Battalions. He was liberated by the Soviet Army in 1944 in Lublin, Poland and remained for three years in Wroclaw (Breslau) Poland. He then spent one year in Sweden.

In 1949, he arrived in the United States.

Jerry married and has two children and six grandchildren



DR. JOHN J. RINDE

John Rinde was born in Przemysl, Poland and came from an upper class Orthodox Jewish family. His father was a businessman.

He was only four and a half years old when the war began.

When the war between Russia and Germany started in 1941, he and his family were herded into the Lvov ghetto.

He escaped from the ghetto and moved to Lublin. There he survived the war using an assumed name, masquerading as a Catholic. His family was liberated in 1945 by the Russian Army and remained in Poland for two years.

He lived in France from 1946 to 1952 and emigrated to the United States in January 1952.

John lives in Florida with his wife and has two daughters and three grandchildren.



TONI RINDE (née Igel)

Toni Rinde was born in Przemysl, Poland.

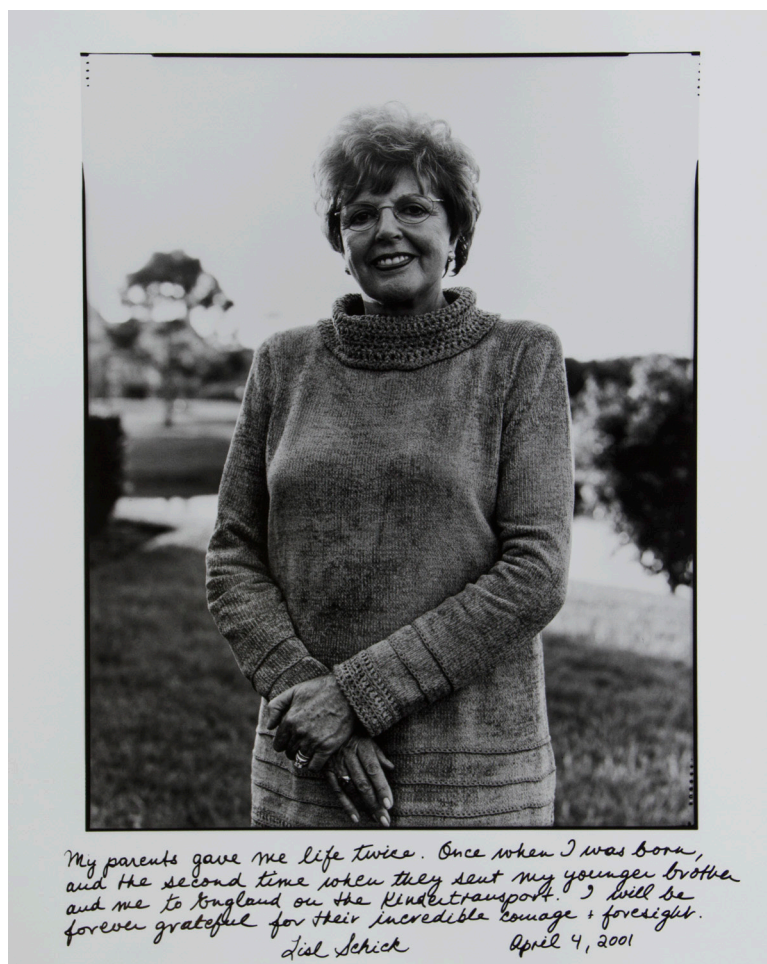
As a toddler, she was hidden by a Polish family from 1941 to 1945. She was provided with false papers and the name Marisha. Toni was raised as a Catholic.

Her father was an officer in the Polish Army. He was fluent in both Yiddish and Polish, which helped him win non-Jewish friends.

After the war, she was reunited with her parents.

Toni attended school in the United States and received a Jewish education. She became a medical technologist.

She has two children and three grandchildren.



LISL SCHICK (née Porges)

Lisl was born in Vienna, Austria and came from an assimilated Jewish home. She was raised with one brother. Her father was an accountant.

Her family was aware of antisemitism in Vienna and anticipated trouble after Kristallnacht. Her parents sent her with her younger brother to England on the Kindertransport in April 1939. There she attended boarding school assisted by B'nai B'rith.

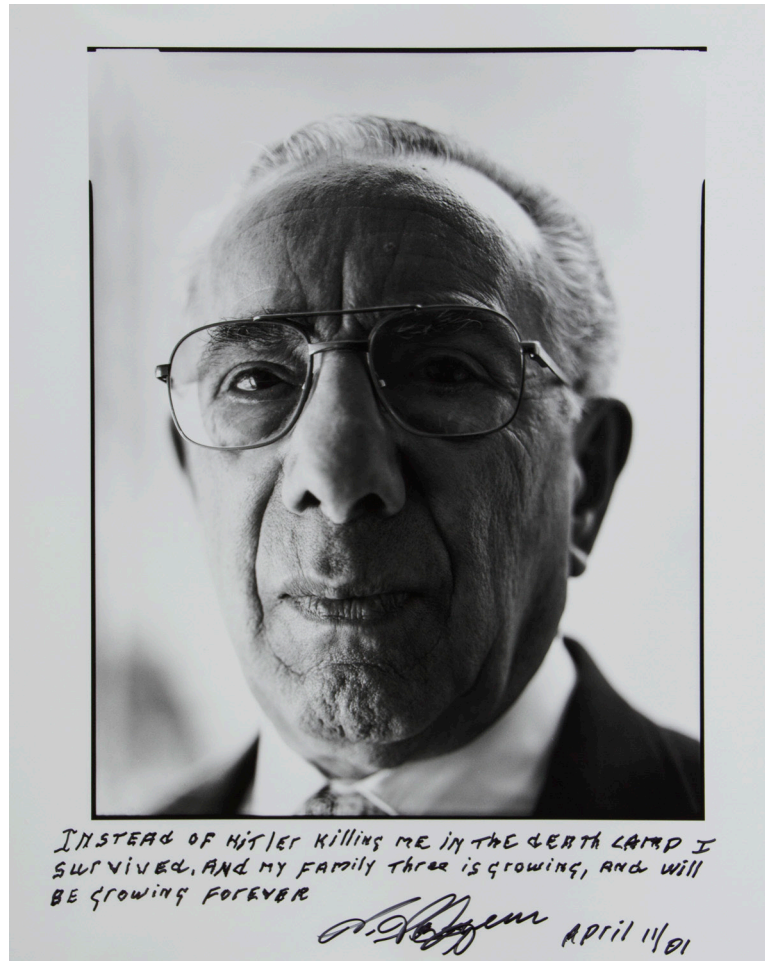
Due to German shelling, they were evacuated from the east coast of England to Wales. She moved several times.

Her father worked with a bank in Vienna, which had a Paris branch. The head of its French office helped him escape to England in June 1939. Her mother fled from Vienna in May 1940 and sailed on the last ship from Italy to New York.

Lisl arrived in the United States in December 1944 via convoy to Halifax, and then a train to New York. Lisl was one of the ten percent of the 10,000 Kindertransport children to be reunited with parents.

Lisl married and has four children and ten grandchildren.

FRAGMENTS: PORTRAITS OF SURVIVORS



SAM SCHRYVER

Sam Schryver was born in Amsterdam, Holland, and worked as a wholesale tobacco merchant prior to the war.

He joined the Resistance immediately after German occupation in 1940 and forged passports and identification cards (Ausweises).

Sam worked in a Jewish hospital for temporary exemption from slave labor and escaped when the SS evacuated the hospital in 1943. After that, he went into hiding in an attic for 18 months until he was captured and interrogated for two weeks in the infamous jail in Scheveningen.

In February, 1945, after three days in a boxcar, he arrived at Westerbork Concentration Camp.

Sam escaped when the liberating army could be heard in the distance. He reached the Canadian forces and brought them back to the camp to free the 876 Jewish prisoners on April 12, 1945.

He remained in Westerbork for three months, guarding SS prisoners. He then worked to help illegal Jewish immigrants in Holland reach Palestine until May, 1948, when the State of Israel was proclaimed.

Sam married and had three children and six grandchildren. Sam passed away in 2013.



MARIE SILVERMAN (née Berkovic)

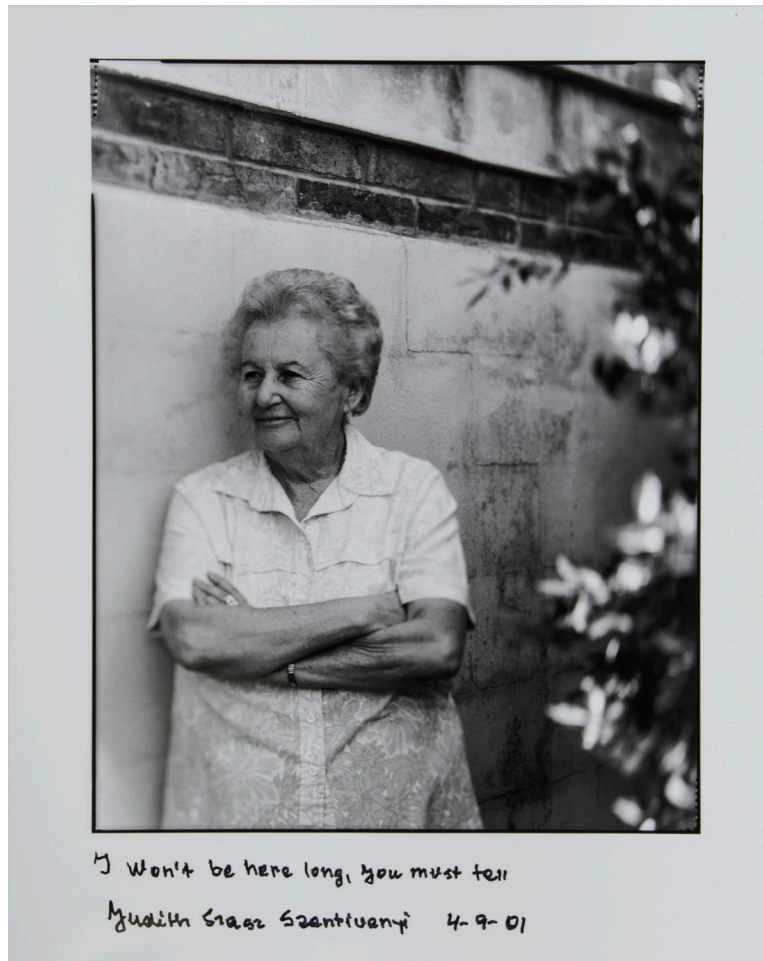
Marie Silverman was born in Lens Pas de Calais, France but lived in Antwerp, Belgium with her parents and sister as a child.

After the invasion by Germany, her family fled to France, and went into hiding on a farm in Toulouse. They were discovered by Germans and deported to the Rivesaltes camp near Perpignan, France. Her mother and the two girls escaped with the help of the Underground and the sisters were taken to a hiding place in Vence, while her mother went back to get their father. Together, her parents hid in a private home in Nice.

Later the Underground reunited the family in Vence, but shortly after her father died of starvation and the harsh treatment that he received living in the camp.

Marie's mother and the two sisters were moved by the Underground to a chateau in the mountains that had been relinquished to make a safe haven for Jewish children. Her mother gave the two girls to couriers who took them across the Pyrenees to Barcelona, Spain in August 1943. Marie's aunt and uncle helped secure the children with visas to go to the United States.

In April 1944 the sisters arrived in the United States. Placed in an orphanage, they were soon moved to foster homes in Providence. Marie completed high school and attended college in Providence, Rhode Island, and the sisters were reunited with their mother in 1949.



DR. JUDITH SZENTIVANYI (née Szasz)

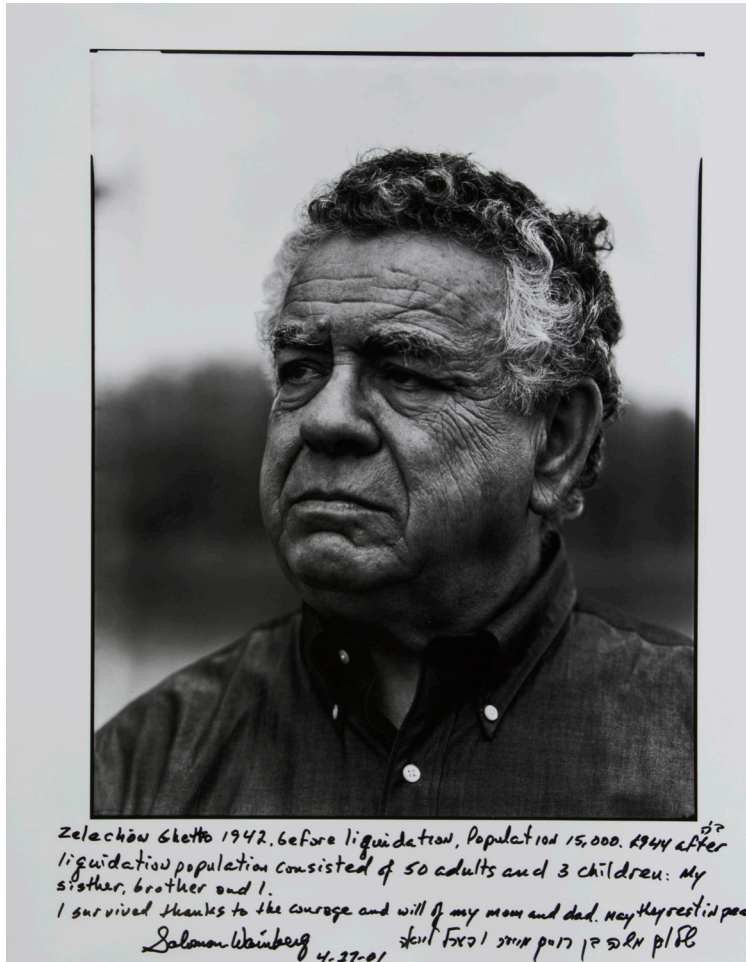
Judith Szentivanyi was born in Miskolc, Hungary and was raised with one sister in a traditional Jewish family. Her father was an oral surgeon.

Judith's father was sent to a labor camp in 1942, leaving his family with no income. She, her sister and mother endured a boxcar transport with ninety-six people; Judith is one of the five from this transport who survived the war. When they arrived in Auschwitz, her mother, younger sister and twenty-two extended family members were gassed.

She was sent from Auschwitz to Birkenau III and then to Plazow to do slave labor in a quarry for two months. Then she returned to Auschwitz, then to Birkenau II to the Gypsy lager. From there she was transported to Parshnitz Camp in Czechoslovakia. There Judith worked in an airplane parts factory in Trautenau (Trutnow). She endured extreme cold, constant hunger, insufficient clothing and lice infestation.

On May 6, 1945, she was liberated from Parshnitz by the Russian Army. She was hospitalized for several weeks and then returned to Miskolc and reunited with her father.

Judith graduated from the College of Medicine in Hungary and married in 1948. She has two children.



SALOMON WAINBERG

Salomon Wainberg was born in Zelechow, Poland and grew up with two sisters and a brother.

He lived in the Zelechow Ghetto from 1940 to 1942. Then, he was hidden in an attic in Zelechow with thirty-nine relatives for sixteen days. After that, he remained in a cellar in Wilcziska for two years, with thirty-two others including his immediate family, aunts and uncles and another family. When they couldn't stay there, Salomon hid in rye and wheat fields for two months.

He was liberated by the Russian Army in August 1944.

One sister died when trying to run away while in hiding. His other sister, brother and he were the only three surviving children among a population of 15,000 Jews from Zelechow Ghetto.

After liberation, he returned to Zelechow and then to Lodz until 1946. Then he fled to France and lived in an orphanage and was educated in a Yeshiva. He then moved to Costa Rica with help of the Joint Distribution Committee.

In 1959, Salomon emigrated to Miami where he attended school at night to become a CPA.

He got married in 1965 and had two children and three grandchildren.



MARY WYGODSKI (née Tabachowicz)

Mary Wygodski was born in Vilna, Poland and was raised as the eldest of three sisters and one brother in a traditional middle class Jewish family. Her father was in the leather business.

After Nazi occupation, her family was sent to the Vilna Ghetto.

In 1943, she was separated from her mother and two sisters at a boxcar and never saw them again.

Mary was transported to the Kaiserwald Labor Camp in Riga, Latvia and then to the Stutthof Camp in Germany. From there she was transferred to Magdeburg Labor Camp, where she made artillery shells in the Polte factory.

After the war, she learned that her father and brother had been executed in a concentration camp in Klooga, Estonia.

Mary has two children and two grandchildren.